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EXAMINATION OF MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE CONTROL PROJECTS HUNTER'S GULCH-MAGPIE CREEK HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

1928

By

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FOREST INSECT
LABORATORY

EXAMINATION OF THE HUNTER'S GULCH AND MAGPIE CREEK MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE CONTROL AREAS ON THE HELENA NATIONAL FOREST.

On September 21, 1928 H.J. Rust, A.L.Gibson, and Ranger Ulhorn of the Checkerboard Ranger Station District travelled on foot from a short distance above the Ranger Station to Hunter's Gulch. The object of the trip was to find an isolated area of lodgepole pine infested with the mountain pine beetle. Control work had been done on the area in 1923 and 1924 when 500 trees were treated the first year and 56 the second. Although a subsequent report by H.J. Rust in 1925 showed no insects to be present it was thought they might have gained a foothold since that time.

Our route of approach to the area gave an excellent view of the entire area where control work had been done. A few slightly faded trees were noted in the bottom of the gulch but careful examination of the bark showed the faded condition to be due to some other cause than bark-beetles. Strip run by the three of us and covering about 25% of the area showed no beetle killed timber subsequent to the 1924 control work. Apparently the control work of that year was 100% successful. A very small amount of spruce budworm work was noted on the area in the douglas fir. Both on the way to and coming from the area a careful lookout was kept for bark-beetle attacked trees but none were observed.

On September 22 the same personnel, with the same objective, made a trip to Magpie Creek, travelling by car to the Boy Scout Summer Camp Site on Trout Creek and then on foot via the Magpie Creek-Trout Creek

Divide into the Magpie Drainage. An excellent view was secured of the entire lodgepole pine stand in this drainage and no red-tops were observed. The control work done in 1925 when 435 trees were treated, seems to have given 100% control.

On the Trout Creek Drainage no mountain pine beetle work was observed but the douglas fir beetle had attacked a number of single and in a few cases small groups of douglas fir. Adjacent dead trees indicated that the loss from this beetle had been occurring for a number of years.

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September, 1928.